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Notes on the gray polypody

STAFFORD C. EDWARDS

During the past December, while roaming the woods and fields around Whiteville, N. C., one of the most noticeable objects of interest was a small polypody. The oft-met little fern proved to be the gray polypody, *Polypodium polypodioides* (L.) Hitch. The fall months had been very dry and the little fronds were considerably curled. Partly decaying logs seemed to be a favorable host, the running rootstocks clinging in the crevices of the bark and growing on the sawed ends of the logs as readily as a shelving fungus. The rails of an old fence were decorated with the same plants. On the village street a large deciduous tree supported on its bark a vigorous growth of the fern, from a point easily within reach to a distance up to the branching portion of the trunk. On the border of a large swamp this polypody was found starting at the base of a large oak, climbing the trunk on two sides and extending its rootstocks along many of the branches, carrying the little upright green fronds to the very tips of the topmost boughs, a sight to attract the attention of the most careless and to arouse the admiration of a naturalist.

NEW BRIGHTON, N. Y.

Review: THE FERNS OF MT. APO*

Fern students in the United States are wont to congratulate themselves when they find as many as fifteen or twenty species of ferns in a single woods. If there are found in a single county as many as forty species, the county is considered good collecting ground. The largest

*The Ferns of Mt. Apo. Leaflets Philip. Bot. 3: 791-851. 15 N 1910.

number of ferns recorded for any single state is not far from eighty, and for the whole United States, the number is about two hundred.

Think then of finding upon a single mountain more than two hundred and fifty species, for that is the number Dr. E. B. Copeland records in his recent paper. Think of finding on a single mountain thirty-three kinds which had not been found anywhere else! Fifteen of these are described for the first time in the paper under consideration. As only a few botanists have collected on Mt. Apo, it is likely that more will be found.

Mt. Apo is the highest mountain in the Philippines. It is situated in southeastern Mindanao on the west side of the long Davao Bay, and rises to a height estimated to be ten thousand feet. Its base covers an area fifteen to twenty miles in diameter.

As Dr. Copeland notes, "Every botanical collector knows that he can make his richest collections on and about high mountains." He suggests that with its more than two hundred and fifty species, Mt. Apo is the richest in fern species of any known area of similar size. It would be interesting to make careful count of the number of species in a similarly restricted part of the Blue Mountains of Jamaica. Perhaps the unexplored Sierra Maestra of Cuba, which reaches up about eight thousand feet, may be found to surpass Mt. Apo in the richness of its fern flora.

Mr. R. S. Williams, of the New York Botanical Garden, who is one of the few botanists who have collected on Mt. Apo, tells me that several endemic birds have also been found there, one of them a robin.

Dr. Copeland, who is a government employee, has probably contributed during the last few years a greater amount of descriptive taxonomic fern literature than anyone else in the same period. He has had exceptional facilities in the way of field work, and has taken every

advantage of them. In one of his papers he has given a very interesting ecological study of the ferns of a portion of Mindanao.

R. C. B.

ADDITIONS TO THE HERBARIUM

Since the last report, two hundred and sixty-seven mounted sheets have been added to the Society herbarium. The list includes the latest addition to our fern flora, *Dryopteris filix-mas* \times *marginalis* Winslow, as well as what is perhaps the rarest North American fern, *Cheilanthes Parishii* Dav.

A sheet of *Asplenium ebenoides* R. R. Scott was received from the Sussex Co. (N. J.) Nature Club too late to be included in the list given below:

1. *Adiantum capillus-veneris* L.
2. *Adiantum Jordani* K. Müll.
(*Adiantum emarginatum* Hk.)
3. *Adiantum pedatum* L.
4. *Asplenium germanicum* Weis.
5. *Asplenium montanum* Willd.
6. *Asplenium platyneuron* (L.) Oakes
7. *Asplenium resiliens* Kze.
(*Asplenium parvulum* Mart. & Gal.).
8. *Asplenium ruta-muraria* L.
9. *Asplenium septentrionale* (L.) Hoffm.
10. *Asplenium trichomanes* L.
11. *Asplenium vespertinum* Maxon
12. *Athyrium acrostichoides* (Sw.) Diels
13. *Athyrium angustifolium* (Michx.) Milde
(*Asplenium angustifolium* Michx.)
(*Asplenium pycnocarpon* Spr.)
14. *Athyrium filix-femina* (L.) Roth
15. *Athyrium filix-femina* f. *polyclados* Moore
17. *Botrychium dissectum* Spr.
18. *Botrychium lanceolatum* (S. G. Gmel.) Angstr.
19. *Botrychium neglectum* Wood